

5-9383

20 August 1954



In our telephone conversation of 25 March, I informed you that the record of the [] case indicated that [] travel in July of 1951 had been performed at [] personal convenience and, consequently, could not be paid for out of official funds. It was my understanding that the basis for your insistence that the expense of this travel be paid for by the Government was and is that the immediate circumstances (the death of [] mother) was not the only cause of travel and that, based on the whole history of the case, you deemed it essential to the safety of the operations under your control to have [] leave [] permanently. My recollection of your position in that conversation is that you consider the travel performed was in the best interest of the United States Government. I would not question your authority to order an employee home from your station if you believed security required that he leave the station permanently.

Since our conversation, I have had an opportunity to secure Mr. [] complete personnel folder which records that [] traveled alone to Washington on 17 July and returned [] on or about 1 August. The record further indicates that [] father subsequently died and that she and her child returned to the United States on 19 January 1952 on the understanding that the Government would pay for the cost of this travel upon completion of Mr. [] two-year tour of duty. This latter event occurred in April 1952 at which time [] was ordered to Washington for home leave and permanent change of station.

It does appear from the record that [] from the date of his arrival overseas, had been the source of considerable worry on the part of his superiors [] because of his inability to meet his financial obligations. The file contains a statement by his immediate superior [] however, that [] personal maladjustments had not produced a detrimental effect on his work and that the writer agreed with the Chief []

STAT that there was merely a possibility that he might become a liability to [] The file indicates that, after considerable discussion concerning reassignment of [] to a lower-cost area, it was agreed that he would remain at his post. STAT

On the basis of the foregoing, I have no alternative but to re-affirm my former opinion that the travel of [] in July of 1951 was for purposes of compassionate leave, the expenses of which, under the laws applying to Government funds, cannot be paid by the Government. The inevitable conclusion is that the Agency must accept the offer contained in your cable of 17 July 1951 that if regulations prevented Agency reimbursement of this travel, you would personally bear the expense. STAT

Very truly yours,

[5]

LAWRENCE R. HOUTON

OGC/TMF:LSH/ms

cc: Deputy Director (Administration)
Comptroller
Inspector General
Chief, WE
Subject
Signer
Chrono